



The Providence Report

Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

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A message from Supervisor Smyth...

Looking forward to spring? So are we. Come out and help us kick off the season with a wide range of events in Providence. From our annual Environmental Workshop to a second series of Land Use Seminars, we offer residents many opportunities to learn more about what is going on in our district and Fairfax County.

We also have two remarkable occasions to celebrate. First, on April 8 we will have the long awaited groundbreaking for the new Oakton Library, the first public library in Providence. Then on May 6 residents all over Fairfax will gather for Trailfest, a day of activities commemorating the completion of the 40 mile long Cross County Trail.

You will find more information on these and many other events in our newsletter or on our web site www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence. Please join us! ▪

~ Linda Smyth ~



Above: Supervisor Smyth and residents at the Senior Citizens Issue Forum held at Mantua ES

Seventh Annual Providence District Environmental Workshop



A Focus on Low Impact Development & Stormwater Management

The Seventh Annual Providence District Environmental Workshop has become a wonderful community tradition. This year, the workshop will be held at **Fairhill Elementary School, 3001 Chichester Lane, Fairfax, Virginia 22031 from 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** Please note that this is a change of venue from previous years.

Participants will have the opportunity to select from several workshops offered by county agencies, as well as Wetland Studies, Fairfax Water, Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, Clean Fairfax Council, Lands & Water Inc; walk to a low impact development project site located in the parking area of the Providence District Supervisor's Office and Fire Station 30; and engage in a panel discussion. Also back by popular demand, order forms for Native Species Seedlings will be available!

Supervisor Smyth welcomes and encourages you to come and learn more about Low Impact Development and Stormwater Management in Fairfax County and the Metro Washington Area.

More information is available on the county Web site www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/Env_Wkshop7.htm
Please call 703-560-6946, TTY 711 to register.
Registration prior to the event is appreciated. ▪

Providence Supervisor's Office is the recipient of a 2004 Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Chesapeake Bay Watershed Grant for Low Impact Development and Innovative Urban BMP projects and of a 2005 NACo Achievement Award for the Demonstrating Innovation Project.

First in Providence

The Oakton Library
Janet Kerr-Tener and Linda Byrne,
co-founders of the Friends of Oakton Library

The story of the Oakton Library is a testament to what can happen when the community, local government, and the private sector coalesce around an idea.

Many groups and individuals have played important roles in the gestation of the library. First was the Oakton Woman's Club which planted the seed more than a decade ago. Then, as a result of discussions with then-Providence Supervisor Gerry Connolly [currently, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors], a developer offered to donate land for the library. Supervisor Connolly had rejected the developer's first application in response to organized community reaction to the proposed development in the heart of the village of Oakton. Supervisor Connolly then led successful negotiations for the actual donation of a 3-acre parcel, the first time a developer has donated land for a library in Fairfax County.

Following the donation of the land, Providence Supervisor Linda Smyth [then Planning Commissioner for Providence District], the Fairfax County Library System, and government planners worked to fast-track a building/site design and tested it with the community in a forum held in the spring of 2002. The Board of Supervisors approved inclusion of funds for the Oakton Library in the library bond referendum scheduled for 2004. The Fairfax County Public Library Foundation convened an informal group of citizens to lead the public education campaign for the 2004 bond referendum. County voters responded enthusiastically by approving the library bond referendum by a huge margin.

The Friends of Oakton Library was co-founded in 2001 by Janet Kerr-Tener and Linda Byrne. This group has been working toward and looking forward to the next chapter of the story of the Oakton Library which begins on April 8 with the groundbreaking ceremony on site at 10:00 AM.

More information on the Friends of the Oakton Library is available on the following county library Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/friends/oa/oafriends.htm, by emailing Janet Kerr-Tener at JanetTener@aol.com or by calling Linda Byrne at 703-938-6650, TTY 711. ■

Save the Date!

Oakton Library Groundbreaking

Saturday, April 8, 2006 at 10 a.m.
10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton
(just off of Hunter Mill Road)

Supervisor Smyth joins the Fairfax County Public Library, Friends of the Oakton Library, Oakton Woman's Club to welcome residents at this groundbreaking event for the first public library in Providence District.

More information about this event is available on the following county Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/Upcoming_Events.htm or by calling the office of the Providence District Supervisor at 703-560-6946, TTY 711. More information on the Oakton Library is available on the following county library Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/oa/ or by calling 703-324-3100, TTY 711. ■



Farmer's Market at Nottoway Park

Every week, spring through fall, Nottoway Park bustles with farmers, residents and visitors of our communities. Part of the parking area springs alive with the abundant sights, sounds, smells and colors of an open air produce market. **The 2006 season opens on May 3rd and closes on November 22nd.**

Farmer's markets are supervised by the Fairfax County Park Authority. More information is available on the following park Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farm-mkt.htm or by calling the Park Authority at 703-324-8702, TTY 711. ■

Park News:

► Donation of Land to Fairfax Park Authority

Elm Street Development recently donated a 27,838 square foot parcel of land located on the north side of the W& OD trail east of Malraux Drive and west of Reflection Lane. This parcel is identified as parcel 35A on the County tax records. This donation will be incorporated into the Tysons Woods Park resulting in a direct connection between the park and the W& OD trail. Supervisor Smyth, the Fairfax County Park Authority and neighborhood residents worked with Elm Street Development to facilitate the donation.

► 800 Acres Added to Our Parks

At public hearing on February 27, 2006 the Board of Supervisors transferred the ownership of over 800 acres of Board owned land to the Fairfax County Park Authority. Much of this land was obtained through proffers and other land use actions. Some of the parcels will be utilized by the Park Authority to develop neighborhood parks. The future Railroad Street playground park in Dunn Loring was part of this land transfer.

More information about these items is available via online inquiry to the Park Authority on the following Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/feedback.htm or by calling 703-324-8702, TTY 711. ■

Below: Sidewalk at Sutton and Courthouse in Oakton



Oakton Sidewalk Improvement

The sidewalk pictured (to the left) is located on Courthouse Road and runs 255 feet west from the intersection of Sutton Road. It was recently installed by Mastercraft Homes, Inc. as a crucial missing link that will greatly improve pedestrian safety for Oakton residents, especially for the Oakton High School students.

Current state statute does not require property owners to install sidewalks if they are not subdividing their property. Since Mastercraft Homes was not subdividing their parcel, they were exempt from having to install a sidewalk.

Supervisor Smyth engaged Mastercraft Homes and worked with VDOT and the county's Department of Public Works and Environmental Services to reduce costly and burdensome design requirements. The above mentioned parties worked creatively and cooperatively to get the sidewalk built at no cost to taxpayers. Supervisor Smyth looks forward to future opportunities to help facilitate other **sidewalk and pedestrian safety improvements** throughout Providence District.

More information about the Pedestrian Program is available on the following county Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/pedestrian.htm or by calling the Pedestrian Program Manager at 703-324-1100, TTY 703-324-1102. ■

FCPS: A Critical Juncture for Student Achievement



Your School Board is entrusted with both a profound and precious responsibility – providing the best education possible for Fairfax County children. This responsibility includes ensuring that every child is positioned to achieve success in school and in life commensurate with his or her capabilities, learns essential life skills, and models citizenship behaviors that will ensure that they become contributing members of our democratic society.

The School Board also has a responsibility to citizens who do not have students in our schools; and, for them, we must ensure wise use of taxpayer dollars and sound school system management.

This is a critical time for the public school system of which our community is justifiably proud. We have new accountability mechanisms that reflect our responsibilities under the federal No Child Left Behind and State of Virginia Standards of Learning requirements; we are experiencing dramatically changing student demographics; and we are committed to ensuring that our children are able to succeed in an increasingly competitive global economy. These conditions require Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) to adapt, change, and strengthen our educational practices.

Over the past several months, the School Board has met nights and weekends to review and assess FCPS's mission, vision, and strategic goals. We are unanimous in our agreement that we must update and refocus our student achievement expectations and we need your help in this effort.

To this end, I will host a District Dialogue on **March 30, 2006 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm in the cafeteria of the Fairhill Elementary School**, 3001 Chichester Lane. Chichester Lane is off of Arlington Blvd. just west of Cedar Road and east of Barkley Road near the Mantua subdivision. I will be joined by at least one other School Board member. Our purpose is to review with you our beliefs and values, our understanding of the FCPS mission, and our vision for the future of the school system. We will then solicit your insight and feedback on draft goals for student achievement.

My responsibility is to ensure that Providence District's voices, concerns and perspectives are included in defining the expectations for what student's should be learning and achieving as an outcome of the community's investment in public education and as we seek to balance the needs of all students across Fairfax County.

The session will be a dialogue that I will lead around a framework of targeted questions. We will begin ... and end ... on time, while giving everyone the opportunity to be heard on the future direction of the school system.

School Board members will host similar meetings in the other magisterial districts, and you are welcome to attend those as well. We are also reaching out to other community groups. We want to consider and balance the need of all students across Fairfax County and we are committed to offering a venue to hear from everyone who has an interest and opinion on the educational future of our students and schools.

I look forward to our meeting. Thank you in advance for attending! – Philip A. Niedzielski-Eichner. ▪

*Providence District Representative ■ Fairfax County School Board ■ 10700 Page Avenue, Fairfax, VA 22030
703-246-4783 (voice mail), 703-246-4629 (administrative assistant), TTY 711 ■ pneichner@fcps.edu*

More information about the School Board is available on the following Fairfax County School Board Web site at www.fcps.edu/schoolbd.htm or by calling 703-246-3646, TTY 711. ▪

Community/Homeowner Association Contact Update

If your association recently held elections or changed officers - please complete the information on our online Community/Homeowner Association Contact Update so that Fairfax County can continue to keep your community informed. The Update form is available on the following county Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/hoaupdate.htm or by calling the Office of Public Affairs at 703-324-3187, TTY 711. ▪

Medicare Prescription Drugs

Starting in January 2006, Medicare began offering coverage for prescription drugs to its beneficiaries. The new Medicare drug benefit is voluntary but if individuals sign up late there may be a financial penalty. The deadline for applying may vary due to personal circumstances, but the primary deadline is May 15, 2006. Beneficiaries will be offered at least two types of prescription drug plans, a stand-alone Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) or a Medicare Advantage Plan (MA-PD), which is a managed care plan, covering all services. To obtain either type of drug benefit, beneficiaries must sign up for a plan. Prescription drug plans will vary, but in general, this is how they are supposed to work:

- Beneficiary will choose a prescription drug plan and pay a monthly premium that in most cases will average about \$35.
- Medicare beneficiaries will be responsible for the first \$250 spent on prescription drugs during a year.
- After the beneficiary pays the first \$250, the Medicare drug plan will pay for 75% of all covered drug costs (\$1,500) and the beneficiary will pay 25% of the drug costs (\$500) for the next \$2,000 of drug spending.
- The beneficiary will be responsible for 100% of costs for drug spending between \$2,250 and \$5,100 commonly known as the "donut hole."
- If the beneficiary reaches total drug spending over \$5,100 during the calendar year, the Medicare drug plan will cover 95% of all drug costs above this amount.

► Low-Income Subsidy

Medicare will provide extra assistance to Medicare beneficiaries with lower incomes and limited assets through a low-income subsidy (LIS). Those persons receiving applications for the LIS from the Social Security Administration (SSA) should apply for this benefit through the SSA. They may also apply online at www.ssa.gov.

► Medicare Drug Benefit and Medicaid

For individuals who receive full Medicaid benefits and also qualify for Medicare, the state will no longer be the primary provider for prescription assistance. As of January 1, 2006, individuals that are considered "dually eligible" will receive assistance with prescription drugs through Medicare. Most will be automatically enrolled into a plan.

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More information about the LIS is available by contacting the SSA at 1-800-772-1213, TTY 1-800-325-0778. Low-income Medicare beneficiaries will need to be advised to apply for both the subsidy and a drug plan that offers the best coverage. More information for Medicare beneficiaries is available on the following Web site at www.medicare.gov or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE, TTY 1-877-486-2048. ■

FY 2007 Budget Schedule

► **February 27, 2006:** County Executive presented the FY 2007 Advertised Budget Plan

► **March 13, 2006:** FY 2007 Budget, Tax Rate and FY 2006 Third Quarter Review to BOS for advertisement

► **April 3-5, 2006:** Public Hearings on FY 2007 Budget, FY 2006 Third Quarter and FY 2007-FY 2011 Capital Improvement Program

► **April 24, 2006:** Budget Mark-Up

► **May 1, 2006:** Budget Adoption

Information on the FY 2007 County Executive's Budget Proposal is available by calling the Department of Management and Budget at 703-324-2391, TTY 711, by emailing DMBInfo@fairfaxcounty.gov or on the following county Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/budgetnews/

The Citizen's Guide to the Budget is available on the following Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/advertised/FY2007/FY07_advertised_citizens_guide.pdf or by contacting the Department of Management and Budget (same contact as above). ■

Dulles Rail Environmental Assessment

Public Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, March 28 at Kilmer Middle School, 8100 Wolftrap Road, Vienna at 7 p.m. Citizens and agencies have an opportunity to comment on the proposed design refinements to the Dulles Rail project. All **written** comments must be received by April 11, 2006. Written Comments should be sent to Karl Rohrer, Deputy Project Director, Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project, 1595 Spring Hill Road, Suite 600, Vienna, Virginia 22182 or via email to eacomment@dullesmetro.com. More information about the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project is available on the following Web site at www.dullesmetro.com/ or by calling 703-288-7000, TTY 711. ■

Special Collection Service for Sanitary District Customers

Special Collection:

Effective August 1, 2005, there is a special collection for household items that are too large to collect with a standard garbage truck, such as a stove, refrigerator or couch. Special collections are limited to six cubic yards of material (about the size of a Volkswagen "bug" car). These special collections are now limited to four free collections per address per year. The procedure for scheduling these special collections remains the same.

MegaBulk Collection:

For collections in excess of four per year or more than 6 cubic yards of material, fees will be assessed. MegaBulk was started to allow customers who generate materials outside the above limitations to use county collection services and to make the system more efficient. Previously, the county would tag materials too large or too voluminous to collect and the customer would need to find an alternate source of transport and disposal. On January 1, 2005, MegaBulk began for customers with more than 6 cubic yards of material. Under MegaBulk, the material is tagged and a price for removal is identified. On August 1, 2005, MegaBulk was expanded to customers requiring more than four collections per year.

Information about the Special and MegaBulk Collections is available by calling the schedule line at 703-802-3322, TTY 711 or on the following county Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/trash/coll_services.htm. ■

Affordable Housing Initiatives

General Assembly: Mid-Term Report: adapted from e-affordable.org

On February 14, the 2006 Virginia General Assembly reached "crossover day" – the day on which the House and Senate exchange and begin consideration of each other's bills. The following are highlights of the actions by both houses on affordable housing, at the mid point of the session:

► **Condominium Conversions:** The 2006 Fairfax County Legislative Program adopted by the Board of Supervisors included a request for legislation to help preserve affordable rental housing being lost to condominium conversions. Since 2000, more than 5500 rental units have converted to condominiums in Fairfax County, with more than 2500 units converted in 2005 alone. Specifically, the Board asked the General Assembly to:

- Permit up to 5% of tenants in condominium conversions to transfer their "first right to purchase" to the local housing authority or non-profit, with a priority for the elderly and disabled, for the purpose of preserving those units as affordable; and
- Require the State Real Estate Board to notify localities when they receive an application for a condominium conversion.

These bills, introduced by Senator Mary Margaret Whipple as SB 268 and SB 269, passed the Senate unanimously on January 24 and are now awaiting consideration by the Housing subcommittee of the House Committee on General Laws.

► **Real Estate Tax Assessments:** Real estate taxes can be a major expense for providers of affordable housing – and a critical barrier to maintaining affordable housing. To address this concern, Delegates James M. Scott and Melanie L. Rapp introduced similar bills to clarify how rent restrictions and other expenses associated with providing affordable housing are to be considered by local real estate assessors. Delegates Scott and Rapp worked together to craft a final version of the bill – HB 1173 – which passed the House unanimously on February 9, and was transmitted to the Senate Finance Committee for consideration. This bill would require the local jurisdictions' assessors to consider the rent and applicable rent restrictions and operating expenses, among other elements, when determining the assessment on a property operated as affordable housing.

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Nottoway Nights Free Concert Series

Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m.



Mark your summer calendar for the return of the FREE Nottoway Nights Concert Series at Nottoway Park! The program takes place on the lawn of the historic Hunter House. Supervisor Smyth thanks the Friends of Nottoway, the park staff and authority as well as the many sponsors who make these free concerts possible.

Nottoway Park is located at 9601 Courthouse Road in Vienna.

~ 2006 Schedule ~

June 1: Alexandria Kleznet (Klezmer)

June 8: Seldom Scene (Bluegrass)

June 15: Mystic Warriors (Andean)

June 22: Scythian (Irish)

June 29: MAHALA's (township jive)

July 6: Bill Kirchen (Roots/Rock)

July 13: Gypsy Strings (Gypsy)

July 20: Zydeco Crayz (Zydeco)

July 27: Project Nataley (Jazz)

August 3: Tom Paxton (Folk)

August 10: Hoaloha (Polynesian)

August 17: Daryl Davis (Swing)

August 24: Pan Masters Steel Orchestra (Caribbean)

August 31: The Moonlighters (Motown)

(Type of band/group is in parentheses)

If you or your organization would like to volunteer for Nottoway Park Free Concert Series, please call 703-560-6946, TTY 711.

Concerts are cancelled in case of rain; decisions are made by 6:00 p.m. Please call 703-324-SHOW, TTY 711 for cancellations, directions, and general information. More park information is available on the following Fairfax County Park Authority Website:
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/parks/. ■

Park Authority Sets Trailfest

on May 6th

Joanne Malone, Providence District
Park Representative

Hundreds of citizens braved frigid temperatures this past December to officially open the Cross County Trail. Organizers of Trailfest are confident that thousands of residents will come out this summer for a trail-wide celebration in warmer temperatures. The festivities, featuring dozens of programs and activities along the 40-mile trail are slated for Saturday, May 6th, 2006.

"This will be one of the largest celebrations in the history of Fairfax County," said Tim White, Chief Operating Officer for the Fairfax County Park Authority. White conceptualized the celebration and has coordinated efforts that will feature fun runs, scouting activities, naturalist programs, hikes and entertainment appropriate for all ages. "We have broken the trail into five districts and in each district we will have ribbon cuttings and activities. We know some folks will thru-hike the entire trail beginning when the sun rises, and then when the sun sets we'll gather at Laurel Hill for a fantastic fireworks display!"

The Park Authority is working cooperatively with the Park Foundation to pay for these programs and to raise both awareness and additional funding in support of open space and new trails. "Imagine the excitement of thousands of citizens who come out and make a contribution of time, and perhaps money in support of green spaces," said Bob Brennan, Executive Director of the Park Foundation. Brennan is currently seeking corporate sponsorships for several events and pavilion areas slated for Trailfest.

The Cross County Trail, first conceived by trail enthusiasts in 1997, is the primary north/south multi-use trail in the county, running along woodland stream valley trails for much of its length. The trail includes numerous stream crossings and also traverses many of the county's east-west roads. The trail is more than 40-miles long and stretches from Occoquan Regional Park on the Occoquan River in the south to Great Falls Park at the Potomac River in the north.

For more information about the trail visit us online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/cct/ or by contacting the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662, TTY 711. For more information regarding Trailfest sponsorships contact the Park Foundation at 703-324-8581, TTY 711. ■

TransPlan

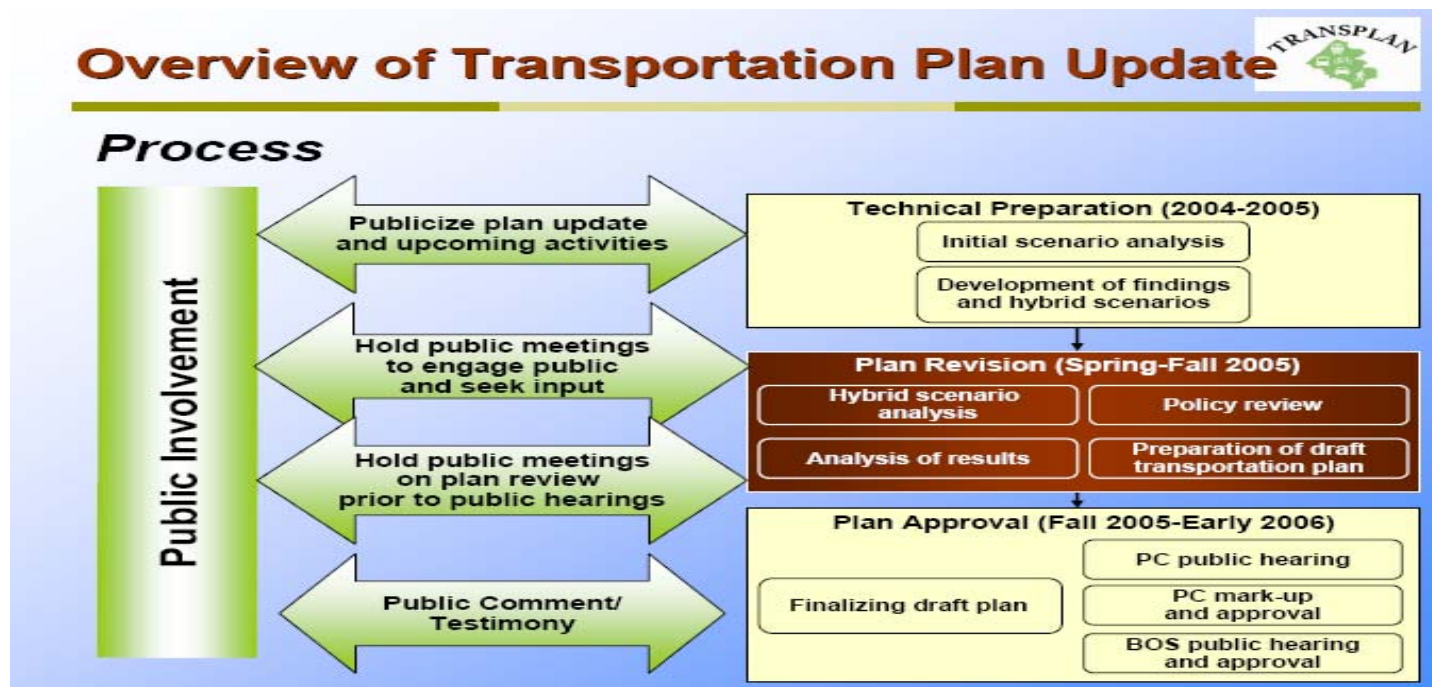
Fairfax County Transportation Plan

The Transportation Plan (TransPlan), which is part of the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan used for decision making, serves as a guide for long-range transportation development in the county. The plan's overall goals and objectives are to have a set of broad policies to reinforce transportation objectives and support for proposed infrastructure, provide the county's own statement about desired targets, act as a tool for reserving right-of-way when development occurs, and be a guide for identifying transportation projects to be included in the region's long-range plan, the state's 6-year program, and the Board of Supervisors 4-year program.

The current Transportation Policies were originally adopted in 1990 and revised in 2001 and illustrate the existing and planned elements of our multi-modal transportation system. The county has made modifications to the Comprehensive Plan, including the TransPlan, through a continual plan review process. The County is currently undertaking a comprehensive review of the TransPlan to provide an updated outlook for our transportation system.

The review process started in December 2004 and is targeted for completion in the spring of 2006. In November 2005, public meetings were held around the County to encourage additional comments and suggestions on the TransPlan before it was brought to any public hearings. The comment period was opened again for a month and suggestions were collected to be included in the final response report in 2006. The Department of Transportation planners and staff are currently analyzing and confirming the forecasting results, completing recommendations for the TransPlan Map and finalizing the TransPlan's policy objectives. A public hearing with the Planning Commission is scheduled for **Thursday May 4th** and with the Board of Supervisors for **Monday June 5th**.

The proposed TransPlan Policy is available on the following county Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/Transportation_Links.htm or by calling the Fairfax County Department of Transportation at (703) 324-1100; TTY (703) 324-1102. ▪



The above image has been adopted from the November 2005 Public Meeting Presentation File located on the following Fairfax County Department of Transportation www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/pdf/presentation_nov.pdf.

Subscription to the Providence Online – Providence District e-newsletter - is available on the following county Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/ProvidenceOnline.htm. The Providence Online offers information and updates to Providence residents.

Land Use Updates

► Tysons Land Use Task Force

In July 2004, the Planning Commission, at the Board's request, deferred all rail-related APR nominations in Tysons Corner pending a Special Study to evaluate the area's transportation system and review Tysons Corner rail related Plan recommendations. Since the scope of the study requires public involvement at several stages, on March 21, 2005, the Board of Supervisors established a citizen task force to work with staff during the special study and to help coordinate public outreach and public input. The task force recently hosted twenty community dialogues to identify what is important to the community regarding the future of Tysons. This series of dialogues is the first step in gathering community input on the future of Tysons.

Ideas and comments can still be sent via to Tysonscornerspecialstudy@Fairfaxcounty.gov More information on the Tysons Corner Study is available on the following county Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/tysonscorner/ or by calling the Planning Division at 703-324-1380, TTY 711.

► Zoning Applications

The County is reviewing two important applications to rezone land in Merrifield. The Comprehensive Plan for the *Merrifield Revitalization Area* was changed by the Board of Supervisors in 2001. The revised plan incorporated changes recommended by the Merrifield Planning Task Force. This citizen task force deliberated for more than two years. The approved plan changed the planning for approximately 20 % of Merrifield to accommodate mixed use redevelopment focused at two locations: the Dunn Loring Metro Station and a Town Center area located in the southwest quadrant of Gallows Road and Lee Highway (Multiplex Theater area). The two applications currently under review include:

- **RZ-2005-PR-041** Is a Merrifield Town Center application that proposes to rezone approximately 27 acres of land to accommodate a mix of uses including residential, ground floor retail, office and a new cinema.
- **RZ-2005-PR-041** Proposes to rezone the Dunn Loring Metro site to accommodate residential, ground floor retail and the construction of a new metro parking garage, bus and kiss and ride drop off facilities.

More information on the Merrifield Revitalization Area is available on the following county Web site at www.fcrevit.org/merrifield/main.htm or by calling Fairfax County Revitalization at 703-246-5034, TTY 711 or by subscribing to the e-newsletter available on the following Web site at www.fcrevit.org/news/subscribe.htm. ■

FXVA Interactive Online Map: www.fxva.com/fxva/index.html



FX Marks the Spot

The Convention & Visitors Corporation

Looking for something to do with your out-of-town visitors? Fairfax County draws visitors from around the world who love to be in the middle of things. Whether here to visit attractions and to shop, visit the National monuments in Washington D.C., or enjoy the wine and horse country to the west, Fairfax County is in the center of it all.

Find out all that Fairfax County has to offer by becoming a virtual tourist using the FXVA interactive online map located on the following Fairfax County Convention & Visitors Corporation's Web site at www.fxva.com/fxva/index.html. More information is also available by calling the Convention & Visitors Corporation at 703-790-0643, TTY 711. ■

Affordable Housing Initiatives

General Assembly: Mid-Term Report: adapted from e-affordable.org

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► **Virginia Housing Trust Fund:** Bills introduced by Senator Mary Margaret Whipple (SB 277) and Delegate Terrie Suit (HB 92) as part of the Virginia Housing Commission's package would:

- Change the name of the Virginia Housing Partnership Fund to the Virginia Housing Trust Fund;
- Provide a dedicated source of revenue to the new Housing Trust Fund, \$.02 from the state's share of the recordation tax; and
- Require that 25% of the Virginia Housing Trust Fund be provided as matching funds for affordable housing projects and programs to localities that:
 - Have a local housing fund; and
 - Where such localities provide ongoing support to their funds through allocations of local financial resources. This change could be particularly advantageous to Fairfax County; the Penny for Affordable Housing Fund is a local housing fund with a dedicated local funding source.

Senator Whipple's bill was tabled in the Senate Finance Committee. Delegate Suit's bill, which passed the House unanimously on February 14 with changes to the source of the fund's revenue, is now under consideration by the Senate Finance committee.

More information about all housing-related bills in this year's General Assembly session is available on the following General Assembly Web site at <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?061+sbj+036>. ■

Land Use Seminar Series

Save the Date!

Supervisor Smyth will be sponsoring another series of Land Use Seminars this spring. The first in the series entitled "**Land Use Information on the Web**" will be held on Tuesday, April 25 at Fairhill Elementary School located at 3001 Chichester Lane, Fairfax from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The Fairfax County GIS Department will be making a presentation at this first seminar on what land use information is available via the internet and how to access that information. GIS staff will also be available to answer questions and obtain suggestions for improvements. Additional seminars will be held on May the 8th and 22nd. Details about these seminars will be posted on the Providence District web page.

More information is available on the Land Use Seminar on the following county Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/Land_Seminar.htm or by calling 703-560-6946, TTY 711. ■

Potomac River Watershed Cleanup

Want to be one of the hundreds of Fairfax County residents volunteering to remove trash from streams and stream valleys throughout the county? Help protect our local streams and sources of drinking water by making this year one of the largest local stream cleanups in Fairfax County history.

Fairfax County is looking for volunteers to participate in the **18th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup** scheduled for Saturday, April 8 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Find out more and sign up to volunteer by visiting www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds/springcleanup.htm or by calling 703- 324-5500, TTY 711, or emailing SWPDmail@fairfaxcounty.gov. To receive an extensive semimonthly, watershed events calendar by e-mail, residents can make an online request to the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District www.fairfaxcounty.gov/contact/mailform.asp?ref=9990 or by calling 703-324-1425, TTY 711. ■



Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in all county programs, services and activities. Special accommodations will be provided upon request. For information call our office at 703-560-6946, TTY 711.

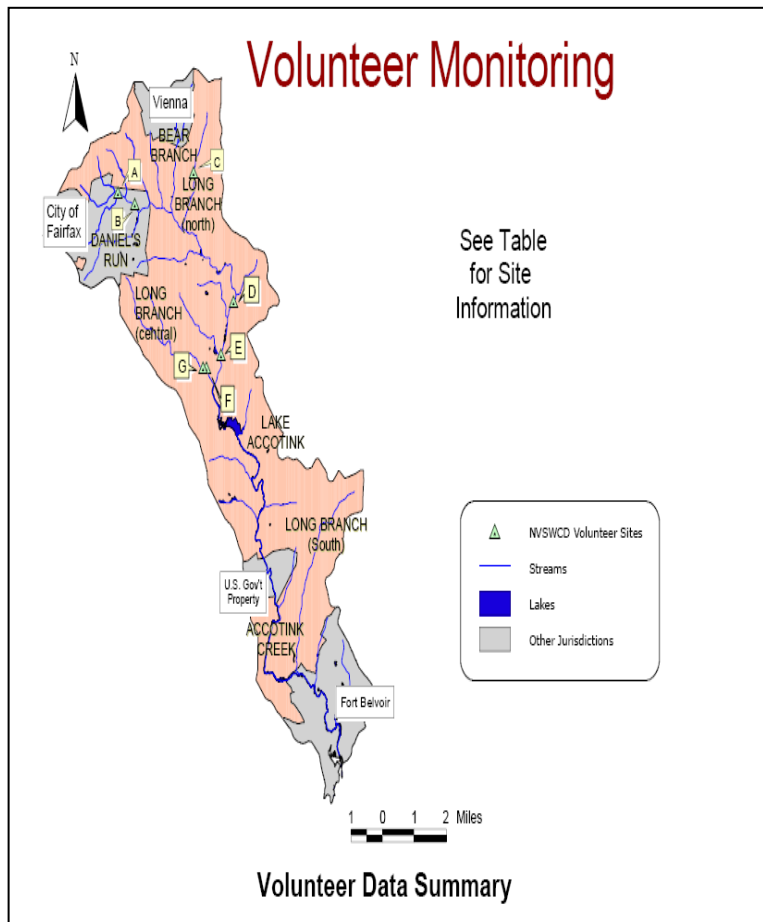
Watershed Updates:

Accotink Creek Watershed:

The Accotink Creek Watershed has an area of 51.1 square miles, or 12.4% of the county. Approximately 13.4 square miles of this area are outside of county jurisdiction, located in the Town of Vienna, City of Fairfax, Fort Belvoir Military Reservation and other U.S. Government installations. The watershed includes areas of both Piedmont Uplands and Coastal Plain physiographic provinces. Only one major impoundment, Lake Accotink (68 acres), and six smaller regional ponds occur in the watershed. The watershed is characterized by heavy development throughout most of the watershed.

Its headwaters begin in the highly urbanized area of Fairfax City where it also joins with its first tributary, Daniels Run. The mainstem increases in size with the addition of two large tributaries, Bear Branch and Long Branch (north), each draining the highly developed Vienna suburbs. It receives input from the second Long Branch (central), which is a major system draining moderate density residential community to the east. After passing through the protected area of the Lake Accotink reservoir system, it travels under the Franconia-Springfield Parkway and enters the Coastal Plain physiographic province. The mainstream then picks up additional input from Long Branch (south), which drains the eastern side of Springfield. On its final leg, the Accotink Creek meanders slowly through the property of Fort Belvoir Military Reservation – the only large expanse of relatively undeveloped land in the entire watershed and finally enters a freshwater tidal marsh at Accotink Bay.

This newest watershed plan is scheduled to start in the summer of 2006. The county is in the process of picking a consulting group for the watershed program and gathering all necessary data needed for the project. The goal of the county is to have this watershed plan completed within a year of its start.



Above: Visual representation of the Accotink Creek Watershed using the Volunteer Monitoring Map.

Difficult Run Watershed:

The final draft of the plan is scheduled to be completed in June and the public workshop will be held in mid-July, 2006.

Middle Potomac Watershed:

Comments from the November 1, 2005 public meeting are now being reviewed by the team for incorporation into the final plan. The final plan is scheduled to be presented to the public this May. Public comments can be made by e-mail to the project team staff at middlepotomac@virginia.edu starting in early spring.

Cameron Run Watershed:

A draft final plan for presentation to the advisory committee and public will be completed by March/April 2006, and it is anticipated that the final plan will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in the fall of this year.

More information on watersheds is available on the county Web site at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/Watersheds.htm; on the Watershed Management Planning Program Web site at: www.fairfaxcounty-watersheds.net or by calling 703-560-6946, TTY 711. ■

Must-Have Phone Numbers

Providence District Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth

Telephone: 703-560-6946 / Fax: 703-207-3541 / TTY: 711

Adult Protective Service 703-324-7450/ Child Protective Services 703-324-7400

Suicide Crisis Hotline: (703) 527-4077 Rape Crisis Hotline: (703) 360-7273

Adult Education	703-227-2200	Alcohol/drug abuse services	703-359-7040
Animal Shelter	703-830-3310	Child care	703-449-9555
Consumer Affairs	703-222-8435	Courts	703-691-7320
Dept. of Motor Vehicles (DMV)	800-435-5137	I-66 Disposal Sites	703-631-1179
Emergency	911	Fastran	703-222-9764
Fire/rescue (non-emergency)	703-691-2131	Gang Unit-Police	703-246-4548
Human Services	703-222-0880	Office for Women	703-324-5730
Park Authority	703-324-8700	Police (non-emergency)	703-691-2131
Tax Information	703-222-8234	Recreation Classes	703-324-5550
Recycling InfoLine	703-324-5052	School-Age Child Care Program	703-449-8989
School information	703-246-2502	Senior Citizen Information	703-324-5411
Traffic Tickets	703-246-3764	Trash Pick-up (County)	703-802-3322
VDOT	703-383-VDOT	Voting Information	703-222-0776

For any number listed here or elsewhere in TTY, please call 703-803-7914 TTY or the 703-222-0880 voice intake number.

Providence District Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

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